

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01031 160820Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJECT: CABINET SHUFFLE

REF: LA PAZ 0797

1. CABINET CHANGES WHICH HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED OVER PAST TWO WEEKS FINALLY OCCURED ON AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 14. CABINET SHUFFLE, THE THIRD IN PAST SIX MONTHS, RESULTED IN A REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF CABINET POSTS BY TWO AS MINISTER OF STATE AND MINISTER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY WERE ABOLISHED IN FAVOR OF NEW POST OF MINISTER-COORDINATOR OF PRESIDENCY, WHILE AGRICULTURE AND COMPESINO AFFAIRS WERE UNITED IN ONE MINISTRY. FORMER MINISTER OF ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS ROBERTO CAPRILES WILL OCCUPY KEY NEW POST OF MINISTER-COORDINATOR, WHILE EX-MINAGRICULTURE NATUSCH BUSCH TAKES OVER ENLARGED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL AND COMPESINO AFFAIRS. FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, COLONEL JUAN PEREDA ASBUN, WAS NAMED AS NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR. TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO CABINET WERE COLONEL MIGUEL AYOROA AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND EX-COLONEL GUILLERMO JIMENES GALLO AS MINISTER OF ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS. ALL MNR AND FSB MINISTERS WERE CONFIRMED IN THEIR PRESENT POSTS. EXPECTED APPOINTMENT OF A BARRIENTISTA TO CABINET DID NOT OCCUR, ALTHOUGH BARRIENTISTAS REMAIN HOPEFUL OF RECEIVING A MINISTRY IN ANY SUBSEQUENT CABINET RE-ALIGNMENT.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01031 160820Z

2. CREATION OF NEW POSITION OF MINISTER-COORDINATOR AS SENIOR CABINET POST, SUPERVISING WORK OF THE OTHER MINISTRIES, IS KEY DEVELOPMENT IN NEW CABINET ALIGNMENT. APPOINTMENT OF APOLITICAL TECHNICIAN CAPRILES TO THIS POST REPRESENTS FURTHER STEP TOWARD PRESIDENT BANZER'S OFTEN EXPRESSED GOAL OF "TECHNICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE" CABINET, IN WHICH PREDOMINANT CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT ARE EFFICIENCY AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE. ELIMINATION OF THREE MINISTRIES AND APPOINTMENT OF CAPRILES ALSO CONFORMS TO PLAN FOR REVITALIZED CABINET SUBMITTED BY FORMER MINISTER-GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY GUIDO VALLE UPON RESIGNING HIS POST THIS WEEK. VALLE'S PROPOSAL, WHICH MAY STILL BE ADOPTED IN FUTURE BY BANZER GOVERNMENT, CALLED FOR REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MINISTRIES FROM 18 TO 13, WITH CURRENT FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CONEPLAN ALSO TO BE INTEGRATED INTO NEW OFFICE OF MINISTER-COORDINATOR, WHO WOULD THEREBY INCREASE HIS STATURE AS A DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER.

3. AS FURTHER STEP TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, CABINET CHANGES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY REPLACEMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS: NOTORIOUSLY CORRUPT BANZER BROTHER-IN-LAW JAIME PRADA, BY COLONEL HERNAN CASTRO VILLAZON. AT SAME TIME, CONTROVERSIAL LT. COLONEL MARIO VARGAS SALINAS WAS NAMED AS INTERVENTOR OF BOLIVIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION(CBF).

4. FOLLOWING LIMITED BIOGRAPHIC ADATA AVAILABLE ON TWO NEW CABINET MINISTERS. COLONEL MIGUEL AYOROA, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED POST OF CHIEF OF STAFF OF EIGHTH DIVISION, BASED IN SANTA CRUZ. A NATIVE OF SANTA CRUZ, AYOROA IS MARRIED WITH FOUR CHILDREN. HE IS RELATED TO JUAN AYOROA AYOROA AND COL. JOSE PATINO AYOROA OF THE WELL-KNOWN AYOROA CLAN. GUILLERMO JIMINEZ GALLO, A RETIRED COLONEL AND FORMER MANAGER OF CBF, IS A NATIVE OF TUPIZA (POTOSI). FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE, HE IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN: MARIA ELENA, LUIS GUILLERMO AND PEDRO MARCELO. DATT WILL PROVIDE FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THESE TWO NEW APPOINTEES. STEDMAN

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